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From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU**PCT****NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 72.2)**

To:

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22. März 2005

Erled.Date of mailing (day/month/year)
17 March 2005 (17.03.2005)Applicant's or agent's file reference
2002-0705 P**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**International application No.
PCT/EP2003/008381International filing date (day/month/year)
29 July 2003 (29.07.2003)

Applicant

OCE PRINTING SYSTEMS GMBH et al

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

EP, JP, US

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Yolaine Cussac

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Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

23 AUG 2005
PCT/EP2003/008381

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002-0705 P	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/008381	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 July 2003 (29.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 July 2002 (30.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G03G 15/16, 21/10, 21/12		
Applicant OCE PRINTING SYSTEMS GMBH		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>7</u> sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/008381

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages _____, 1, 3-13 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, 2, 2a _____, filed with the letter of _____ 07 July 2004 (07.07.2004)
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, 1-20 _____, filed with the letter of _____ 07 July 2004 (07.07.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages _____, 1/5-5/5 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: JP 2001 324 841 (22/11/2001)

D2: JP 2002 156 843 (31/05/2002)

1. D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1 and 11. Said document discloses (abstract, [0007]-[0049], figures 1-3, 14; the references in parentheses relate to said document):

- an electrographic image forming apparatus ([0007]-[0009], figure 2), a transfer station (figures 1-3), and a method for operating said transfer station. The transfer station contains a transport belt 31 for transporting a sheet-like recording carrier P, 6 (figures 1, 2) onto which a toner image is electrostatically transferred from a light-sensitive medium 1.

In addition, toner marks are generated in the area between the images on the light-sensitive medium 1 (figure 1), the transfer potential being reduced (see potential curve, figure 1) whilst a space between two successive recording carriers 6 and corresponding to the area between the images L

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passes the light-sensitive medium (figure 1, [0007]-[0012], [0044], claims 1 and 2). In addition, D1 discloses two cleaning stations with residual toner containers, the light-sensitive medium and the transport belt each being associated with a cleaning station, respectively.

The subject matter of claim 1 (method for operating a transfer station of an electrographic printing device) and 11 (transfer station for an electrographic printing device) differs from the known method and transfer device in that only one of the residual toner containers has a toner amount sensor and in that a request to the operator to exchange the two residual toner containers is issued if the sensor issues the "full" signal.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 11 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2. The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of achieving a simple exchange cycle for the residual toner containers, wherein only one residual toner amount sensor is used. The lowering of the transfer potential in the area between the sheets brings about an even distribution of residual toner in both residual toner containers.

The solution to this problem proposed in claims 1 and 11 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

The use of only one residual toner amount sensor and the simultaneous exchange of both residual toner

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containers is neither disclosed in nor suggested by D1 or D2.

3. Claims 2-10 and 12-20 are dependent on claims 1 and 11 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.

4. The subject matter of claims 1-20 of the present application is industrially applicable in the field of electrographic image forming.

5. **Further observations**

With respect to the national phase before the European Patent Office, attention is drawn to the following points: Some features of the device claims 11-20 (for example, claim 11: "*wherein a request...is issued*") relate to a method for using the device and not to a definition of the device on the basis of its technical features. The intended restrictions are therefore not clear from the claims, in contravention of PCT Article 6.

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